

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 2, and 7-20 were previously canceled. Claims 6 and 29 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 3 through 6 and 21 through 31 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) A trocar comprising:

a cannula for receiving an implant and inserting the implant into an animal, the cannula having a sharp tissue penetrating distal end;

a spring element received entirely within the cannula, the spring element having a leaf spring for retaining the implant inside the cannula, the leaf spring applying a frictional force against the implant sufficient to prevent the implant from sliding out of the cannula under a weight of the implant, wherein the spring element is formed as a sheet with the leaf spring formed as a T-shaped cut out portion within the sheet; and

an obturator for delivering the implant from the cannula into the animal.

4. (previously presented) A trocar comprising:

a cannula for receiving an implant and inserting the implant into an animal;

a spring element received within the cannula, the spring element having a leaf spring for retaining the implant inside the cannula, the leaf spring applying a frictional force against the implant sufficient to prevent the implant from sliding out of the cannula under a weight of the implant;

an obturator for delivering the implant from the cannula into the animal; and

wherein the leaf spring has a plurality of successive bends and the successive bends are arranged to alternatively contact an inside wall of the cannula and an outside of the implant to retain the implant in the cannula.

5. (original) The trocar according to claim 4, wherein the leaf spring has a longitudinal leg arranged substantially parallel to an axis of the cannula and a cross leg substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal leg, and the plurality of successive bends are formed on the longitudinal leg.

6. (currently amended) The trocar according to claim 4, wherein the leaf spring having the plurality of successive bends is compressed in a radial direction of the cannula by the insertion of the implant into the cannula.

7-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A trocar comprising:
a cannula for receiving an implant and inserting the implant into an animal;
a spring element received within the cannula, the spring element formed from a sheet with a continuous cut forming a T-shaped leaf spring connected to a surrounding sheet;
an obturator for delivering the implant from the cannula into the animal; and
wherein the leaf spring retains the implant inside the cannula by applying a frictional force against the implant sufficient to prevent the implant from sliding out of the cannula under a weight of the implant.

22. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 21, wherein the obturator has a tapered distal end to prevent ejection of the spring element from the cannula when the obturator is moved distally to eject the implant from the cannula.

23. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 21, wherein the spring element is fixed within the cannula.

24. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 21, wherein the leaf spring is received entirely within the cannula.

25. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 21, wherein the spring element is received entirely within the cannula.

26. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 4, wherein the obturator has a tapered distal end to prevent ejection of the spring element from the cannula when the obturator is moved distally to eject the implant from the cannula.

27. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 4, wherein the spring element is fixed within the cannula.

28. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 3, wherein the leaf spring has a longitudinal leg and cross leg, and the cross leg of the leaf spring is wider than the longitudinal leg in a circumferential direction.

29. (currently amended) The trocar according to claim 28, wherein the cross leg has tabs on either end ~~with secures which secure the leaf spring against motion away from a surface of the cannula surface towards an axis of the cannula axis.~~

30. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 3, wherein the sheet is substantially rectangular.

31. (previously presented) The trocar according to claim 21, wherein the sheet is substantially rectangular.